

IV. Remarks

A. Summary of Amendments

Method Claims 1-11 have been canceled without prejudice to focus on the device claims as well as to avoid additional claim fees. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation or future application.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the features of dependent Claim 19 and its intermediate claims, while also reciting that the memory cells are addressable together for programming and overerase correction, as discussed in the specification. Claim 14 has been amended consistent with the amendments to Claim 12.

Claim 20 has been amended into independent form to include the features of dependent Claims 15 and 21, i.e., Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form in Claim 20. The dependency of Claims 22 and 25 have been amended consistent with these amendments. Claim 23 has been amended to correct “amount” to “relationship” as recited to in Claim 20.

Claims 13 and 15-19 and 21 have been canceled consistent with these amendments.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the features of prior pending dependent Claim 27, which has been canceled. The dependency of Claim 28 has been amended consistent with the cancellation of Claim 27. Claim 29 has been amended to correct “amount” to “relationship” as recited to in Claim 26.

New Claim 31 has been added and depends from Claim 20. Claim 31 recites the features of Claim 25, which has been amended to depend from Claim 12.

Paragraph 29 of the application as filed has been amended to correct a typographical error reciting “it” rather than “its.”

Paragraph 30 of the application as filed has been amended to correct “cell current detector PMOS QP1” to “bit line current detector PMOS QP1.” Support for this amendment can be found at, for example, Paragraph 22 of the application as filed.

Paragraph 33 of the application as filed has been amended to correct a double recitation of “.” to “.”.

Paragraphs 33-34 have also been amended to correct ppm/0°C to ppm/°C.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for allowing Claim 30 and recognizing the allowable subject matter in Claims 8-10, 19, 21-23 and 27-29.

C. Claim Objection

The Action objects to Claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled as set forth above.

D. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Action rejects Claims 8-10, 23 and 29 as being indefinite for reciting the limitations “said mirrored portion” and “said mirrored amount.” Claims 8-10 have been canceled. Claims 23 and 29 have been amended to correct the error reciting “amount” rather than “relationship” as set forth in the claims from which they depend. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

E. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103(a)

The Action rejects Claims 1-3 and 12-14 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,706,240 to Fiocchi et al. and Claims 4-7, 11, 15-18, 20 and 24-26 as being obvious from Fiocchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,466 to Hotta.

Objected Claim 19 has been amended into independent form in Claim 12. Objected Claim 21 has been amended into independent form in Claim 20. Objected Claim 27 has been

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amended into independent form in Claim 26. Applicant submits that the prior art rejections set forth in the Action are moot in view of these amendments and the claim cancellations set forth above. Accordingly, it is submitted that remaining Claims 12, 14, 20, 22-25, 26, 28, 29 and 31 are in condition for allowance.

F. Rule 132 Declaration

Applicant submits a Rule 132 Declaration from the inventor herewith to correct certain factual errors made in the application as filed, as detailed in the Rule 132 Declaration.

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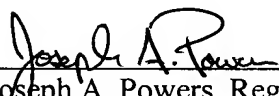
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant(s) submit that this application is in condition for allowance at an early date, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/13/05



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